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## BREAKING NEWS

- Governor Evers announced how the state will spend a large portion of the federal funding provided through the CARES Act. The \$1.17 billion initiative will go toward COVID-19 testing, contact tracing, acquisition of personal protective equipment and supplies, emergency operations and hospitals.
  - The initiative includes \$260 million for testing, \$75 million for contact tracing, \$190 million for equipment and supplies, and \$645 million for emergency operations.
  - With much of the state's response taking place through local health departments, Assembly Majority Leader Jim Steineke applauded the plan for providing additional testing capacity and dollars to these local teams.
- The head of the Wisconsin Hospital Association (WHA) indicated today that Wisconsin hospitals are more prepared than ever for a COVID-19 surge.
  - The WHA president and CEO noted that members now feel confident they can manage the situation noting there is a “night and day difference” between where the state's hospitals were at the beginning of the COVID public health emergency and now.
- The Congressional Budget Office projects the nation's Gross Domestic Product will drop by 38% in the second quarter of 2020 as an estimated 26 million Americans remain unemployed.

- [The Department of Homeland Security extended the non-essential travel ban between the U.S. and Mexico, and the U.S. and Canada today.](#)
    - [In a statement, acting Secretary Wolf indicated that both the Canadian and Mexican counterparts agreed with the extension in order to ensure North America can combat the ongoing global pandemic.](#)
  - [According to the latest data available from the Department of Health Services,](#) Wisconsin now has 12,885 confirmed positive cases of the COVID-19 virus and 467 confirmed deaths. 148,237 negative test results have been reported. DHS is also now providing information on the recovery status of COVID-19 confirmed cases – [find the data here.](#)
    - According to the Wisconsin Hospital Association, [there are 398 total COVID-19 patients in our hospitals](#) – a 19-patient increase over the last 24 hours.
    - [DHS has released new data on facility-wide public health investigations and outbreaks in areas across the state.](#) Currently, there are 299 COVID-19 facility-wide investigations and outbreaks.
    - [Click here for more information on COVID-19 data through DHS.](#)
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## DAILY UPDATES – MAY 19, 2020

### State Updates:

- The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs is holding a virtual state-wide Memorial Day observance that will begin Monday at 9:00AM. [The virtual ceremony can be accessed by clicking here.](#)
- [The Wisconsin National Guard has 25 specimen collection teams, consisting of more than 600 Citizen Soldiers and Airmen, operating across Wisconsin to increase testing capacity,](#) with Brown, Dane, Jackson, Marathon, Menominee, Milwaukee, Outagamie, Racine, and Rock Counties having ongoing testing site operations.
- The Wisconsin Office of the Commissioner of Insurance issued a notice to insurers today that testing for COVID-19 must be covered by private health insurance. [Read more here.](#)

- [The Department of Workforce Development \(DWD\) reports that 7,171 initial applications were filed for unemployment insurance on Monday, May 18, bringing the weekly total to 11,378.](#)
  - [Since the start of the pandemic, more than a half a million unemployment claims have been filed in Wisconsin – a sum that is 15 times greater than all claims filed during the same period just one year earlier.](#)
  - DWD is currently receiving an unprecedented number of applications for benefits. In order to meet demand, those needing to [file unemployment insurance claims are encouraged to do so through the Department’s website.](#) A number of frequently asked questions and answers is also available on this site. The phone lines remain open to applicants, but they may experience longer-than-usual delays.
- Those seeking employment may still do so by [registering on JobCenterofWisconsin.com.](#) [The website will continue to be updated often as new jobs arise.](#)

#### Federal Updates:

- [U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced details of the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program \(CFAP\),](#) which will provide up to \$16 billion in direct payments to deliver relief to America’s farmers and ranchers impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- [FEMA issued its daily briefing points, with information related to the Whole-of-America response to the COVID-19 pandemic.](#) Some highlights include:
  - On May 18, HHS announced \$11 billion in funding to states, territories, and tribes to support testing for COVID-19.
  - As of May 18, FEMA, HHS, and the private sector combined have coordinated the delivery of or are currently shipping: 82.7 million N95 respirators, 133.7 million surgical masks, 11.6

million face shields, 24.4 million surgical gowns, and 989.4 million gloves.

- As of May 18, CDC, state, and local public health labs and other laboratories have tested more than 10.8 million samples.

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## GENERAL INFORMATION

### *Helpful Resources*

- [The Assembly GOP Caucus has launched a GOP COVID-19 webpage.](#) It will serve as a resource for up-to-date information, links to DHS and CDC information, graphics, and more.
- The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency has [released guides for information and communications technology supply chain risk management.](#)
- [The Federal Emergency Management Agency has created the Coronavirus Rumor Control page](#) to help folks distinguish between rumors and facts.

### *Education*

- Governor Evers has directed the Department of Health Service to mandate a statewide closure of all K-12 schools. All schools will be closed beginning Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, and will remain closed through the rest of the 2019-20 school year.
- There are options for children who were participants in the Child Nutrition Program at school and may be facing food insecurity during the break.
  - [While School Food Authorities \(SFAs\) are not required to provide meals during a dismissal, they are encouraged to ensure that the needs of low-income children are met during extended school dismissals.](#)
  - Check with your local school districts for information regarding meals for children during the school closure.

### *Businesses*

- Under Governor Evers' "Safer at Home" order, some businesses deemed "essential" may continue operation. [A Q&A and a listing of essential industries is available on the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation's \(WEDC\) website.](#)
  - Businesses performing essential functions not included in the categories listed on the WEDC website, [may request such designation by submitting this online form to the agency.](#)
  - As businesses begin to re-open around the state, [WEDC has provided guidelines to help businesses reopen in a safe manner.](#)
- Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce (WMC) has compiled a COVID-19 Employer Toolkit to help employers and workers navigate the recent state and federal policy changes related to essential businesses, unemployment insurance, paid medical leave, small business loans, and more. [Find the Toolkit here.](#)
- [The Department of Health Services has provided guidance for employers on COVID-19.](#)
- [The federal Center for Disease Control has compiled interim guidance for businesses and employers.](#)
- [Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce has also developed a toolbox of guides](#) to help employers navigate the COVID-19 virus.
- For summaries on loan programs available to small businesses, [visit NCSL's breakdown here.](#)
- The Small Business Administration, in consultation with the Department of Treasury, has issued a [FAQ on Paycheck Protection Program loans.](#)

### ***Mental Health***

- [Resilient Wisconsin](#), a new page from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, has consolidated the latest mental and behavioral health self-care tools and trauma-informed practices.

- [American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's COVID-19 webpage](#) includes advice and guidance from mental health and suicide prevention experts.
- [NAMI Wisconsin has launched a website with COVID-19 resources related to mental health.](#)

### ***Dining***

- Despite the Governor's orders to close all restaurants and bars, take-out and delivery services are still permissible.
  - The [Wisconsin Restaurant Association has worked to compile a list of participating restaurants](#) offering such services.

### ***Ways You Can Help***

- Give Blood – [click here](#) to find a blood drive/donation center near you.
  - The Red Cross has indicated cancellations of blood appointments are at record highs. Encourage others to donate if they are healthy.
- Local food banks are asking for your assistance.
- The United Way and other [groups have created an online portal for those looking for volunteering opportunities in their community.](#)
- [Help your local small businesses.](#) Grab a meal for take-out or buy gift cards and shop online from local businesses to help them stay afloat during this time of uncertainty.
- Volunteer to pick up groceries or prescriptions for elderly in your community, or volunteer with a local organization who provides these services (i.e.: Meals on Wheels).
- Limit stockpiling, as grocery stores will remain open.

### ***Services***

- Internet:
  - [Charter is providing free Spectrum broadband and Wi-Fi access for 60 days](#) to households with K-12 and/or college students who do not already have a Spectrum broadband

subscription and at any service level up to 100 Mbps. To enroll, call 1-844-488-8395

- [Comcast is increasing speeds from 15/2 Mbps to 25/3 Mbps for all customers, and new customers are receiving two months of free service.](#) More information on Comcast's Internet Essentials program can be [found here](#).
- [TDS is providing free broadband access](#) for new K-12, college student households for 60 days.
- Unemployment:
  - Information relating to unemployment benefits and COVID-19 can be found on the [Dept. of Workforce Development's informational page](#).
    - Applicants are encourage to apply for benefits online.
- Housing:
  - The Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA) has a [FAQ for homeowners, renters, and housing providers in response to COVID-19](#). The FAQ is being updated as new information arises.
- Kids:
  - [Scholastic offers free online courses for children.](#)
  - [50 activities parents can do with their kids during shutdown.](#)
  - The [Department of Children and Families has developed new resources](#) to connect essential workforce families with locally available childcare.
    - Essential workforce families in need should [fill out this form](#).
    - Families can search for available care [using this map](#).